

Approved For Release 2001/09/05 : CIA-RDP84-01635R000100010027-2

INFORMATION REPORT

97461

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 4 August 1947

SUBJECT Church Reaction to Anti-Catholic
Activities at Grudzią.

NO. OF PAGES 1

**PLACE
ACQUIRED**

25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

On 28 Nov 46 the "Commission for the Citizen's National Gift" [National Levy] wrote to the Bishop of Gdansk with the request that the Church support the Commission's project, especially in the form of advance payments. The bishop's reply to Wladyslaw Gomułka, Deputy Chairman of Council of Ministers and Minister of Regained Lands, is given below as translated by sources:

Bishop of Chelmsford
L.dz.194/46 Ord.

Mr. Minister:

The letter addressed to me by the "Commission for the Citizen's National Gift" and the request for the support of this project by the clergy, found me in the following situation: A few days before my arrival at Grudziadz for an official visit to the city and my 24 priests there, the militia and the secret police forced the owners of houses and apartments to sign a declaration that they would display no flags or other decorations to honor the first visit of a Polish bishop since the occupation. Moreover, during my official visit to the local schools, agents of the secret police who accompanied me intimidated school children in my presence. The same secret police investigated the management of the Hersfeld works, which I visited at the invitation of the workers' committee. In view of these Fascist-Gestapo methods as applied to the official activities of a bishop in his diocese, all I could do was to pray for the enemies of the Church.

This problem, however, needs to be settled by higher authorities because the attitude of the local government was in contradiction to the Polish constitution of 1921.

I must therefore declare to you, Mr. Minister, that when the culprits in Grudziaz are punished and when my faithful, who are the best Poles in Grudziaz, are no longer subjected to methods which are an insult in democratic Poland, then my clergy and I will, in accord with our traditions and principles, lend moral support to the "national gift."

Polplin 9/12/46

—**உயிர்**—

REFERENCE CENTER LIBRARY

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

[illegible]

Approved For Release 2001/09/05 : CIA-RDP81-01035R000100010027-2

[illegible]